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# e Evening Star.

No. 15,544.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1902-THIRTY-TWO PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

# THE ALLIES' OFFER

## President Suggested as Arbitrator.

## IS OPPOSED TO IT

Would Be Put in an Awkward Position.

FAVORS HAGUE COURT

WOULD PROBABLY YIELD TO AVERT HOSTILITIES.

Meanwhile the Punitive Measures Adopted by the Powers in Regard to Venezuela Will Go On.

President Roosevelt has proposed to the allied powers that the Venezuelan disputes be submitted to The Hague tribunal for arbitration. The powers have replied with a counter-proposition, suggesting that President Roosevelt act as arbitrator.

These were the developments overnight in the Venezuelan matter, and they seem to justify the prediction heretofore made in The Star that the critical point had been passed, a certain index being found in the active renewal of diplomatic exchanges. President Roosevelt does not wish to act as arbitrator in this matter, for as such he would be at once judge, jury and constable, and would be under the moral obligation to execute his own judgment.

In The Hague tribunal there is at hand a completely equipped and operative machine, which, better than any other mechanism, could treat a matter of the importance of the Venezuelan dispute. That is the President's belief, and he feels that such a reference would vastly strengthen the cause of arbitration, which the United States of all nations is most disposed to

Would Yield to Avert War.

Still, rather than see the present dispute still, rather than see the present dispute proceed to extremes it is probable that foreign powers. the President will reluctantly assume the lit is believed among the Venezuelan rev-duties of arbitrator, full as they are of olutionists that the present movement duties of arbitrator, full as they are of dangers and difficulties. It is fully realized that any decision rendered by him in that capacity would be sure to bring him the enmity of one or the other of the parties to the controversy, and that fact was pointed out to the President early in the week by a leading senator who had been called into consultation.

Nevertheless, to prevent bloodshed and the destruction of property and the interference with great commercial interests that would also professes anarchistic tendencies, is still have resulted, it is believed that the Presi- alive at the Hahnemann Hospital today, dent would assume the charge, providing but the surgeons say she has but a slight his own view cannot prevail.

Punitive Measures to Go On.

An important fact developed today is that the punitive measures about to be instituted, and in fact now in force in some degree, will not be suspended by the allies until a definite agreement is reached as to arbitration. It is true that the allies have accepted the principle of arbitration, but they have not indicated that fact in writing, and until they have joined in an agreement, reduced to due form, the program aiready outlined and now in process of execution will go forward even to the extent of a full ckade of the Venezuelan ports named in the proclamation.

Venezuela Notified.

Venezuela has also been told, through Minister Bowen, that the President would welcome a reference of the dispute to The Hague tribunal. She has not replied directly, but it is not doubted that the reply would be favorable if the other parties | Three Women Probably Fatally Inconsented to such reference. If an agreement is reached on arbitration

the procedure would be for Mr. Bowen. representing Venezuela as a plenipotentiary, to sign with the representatives of the allies a protocol stating that the case is to be submitted to arbitration; that Venezuela admits the right of diplomatic in-tervention in behalf of a claimant, a principal she has always resisted, and that the details of the arbitration shall be arranged in a formal treaty, which she pledges herself to sign. This treaty will provide in the greatest detail for the security of foreign interests against vexa-tious and extortionate interference on the part of the Venezuelan government hereafter and will insure the administration of exact justice in the settlement of claims, and especially will it relieve foreign resi-dents of Venezuela from forced loans and persecution in times of revolutions

#### TO AID MINISTER BOWEN.

#### Lieut. Johnston Arrives at La Guaira in the Albany.

The following cablegram has been received at the Navy Department from Admiral Dewey, dated San Juan, December 19: "Torpedo boat destroyer not available for duty assigned. Lieut. Marbury Johnston has sailed in Albany."

This action is in accordance with instructions sent by the department. Several days ago United States Minister Bowen requested that some one be sent to assist him in the discharge of the numerous important duties that have suddenly devolved upon him in the Venezuelan imbroglio and an officer was detailed from the Marietta, at La Guyas, for the purpose temporarily. It was sug-gested to Admiral Dewey that he send a torpedo boat destroyer on another vessei from Culebra with a relief for the officer dispatched from the Marietta, the last named vessel not being able to spare an officer for a long stay. Admiral Dewey was directed to send a torpedo boat de-stroyer with the naval attache because of the speed of that type of vessel, but the Albany being available it was decided to dispatch her instead, she being a fast It is stated that no significance attaches to the voyage of the Albany, and that she will return to her proper station when the duty stated is completed unless future events should make it necessary for her to remain at La Guayra to co-operate

with the Marietta.

The Albany is a protected cruiser of 3,-437 tons displacement. She carries a battery of ten guns.

Lieut. Johnston, who has been selected for this important mission, is navigator of the cruiser Montgomery at Culebra. He was appointed to the naval academy from Georgia in 1878, and is described as a cool, discrete, level-headed officer. His arrival at Caracas is anxiously awaited by Minister
Bowen, who has under his care the subjects
and property of Grent Britain, Germany.
Italy and Holland, in addition to those of

his own country, which makes his position a difficult one. Lieut. Johnston Landed.

A telegram was received at the Navy Department this afternoon from the commanpartment this afternoon from the commander of the cruiser Albany, announcing the arrival of that vessel at La Guaira, the landing there of Lieut. Johnston to duty as naval attache at the United States embassy at Caracas, and the subsequent departure of the Albny for her station at Culebra.

BLOCKADE PROCLAIMED.

Formal Declaration From the Foreign Office of Great Britain.

LONDON, December 20.-The official proclamation of the blockade of Venezuela ports was gazetted this morning and beomes effective today.

The text of the proclamation is as fol-

"FOREIGN OFFICE, December 20, 1902. "It is hereby notified that as the United States of Venezuela have failed to comply with the demands of his majesty's government, a blockade by his majesty's naval forces of the ports of La Guaira, Carepero, Guanta, Cumana and Carupano and the mouths of the Orinoco is declared, and such blockade will be effectively maintained from and after the 20th of December, subject to the allowance of the following days of grace:

of grace:
"For vessels sailing before the date of this notification from West Indian ports and ports on the east coast of the continent of America—ten days for steamers and

twenty days for sailing vessels.

"From all other ports—twenty days for steamers and forty days for sailing vessels.

"For vessels lying in the ports now declared to be blockaded—fifteen days. "Vessels which attempt to violate the blockade will render themselves liable to

all measures authorized by the law of na-tions and by the respective treaties between his majesty and the different neutral pow-

France Will Not Send a Warship. PARIS. December 20 .- A cable message from Fort de France, Martinique, announces that the French crulser Troude, which was assigned a few days ago to protect French citizens in Venezuela, will now remain outside of Venezuelan waters, as all anxiety

regarding the welfare of the French citizens has been dispelled.

The foreign office here has received from the charge d'affaires at Caracas confirmation of the announcements that President tion of the announcements that President Castro has conferred complete powers on Minister Bowen to arrange the terms for arbitration. The dispatch adds that the president expressed confident belief that the exercise by the United States of the powers granted to Minister Bowen understadily will seems an adjustment of the doubtedly will secure an adjustment of the

questions in dispute.
Informal exchanges of views between the chancelleries of Rome, London and Paris indicate the willingness of the British, Italian and French governments to agree to the creation of a mixed commission as a means of adjusting the difficulties.

PANAMA, December 20.-News received here from the Venezuelan frontier is to the effect that the revolutionary movement against President Castro is now more pow-erful than ever. Gen. Matos is said to be at the head of a strong army, and to be on

against Castro will be successful. ANARCHIST KILLS SWEETHEART.

#### Former Pupil Shoots Teacher in Street in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, December 20.-Voltairine le Cleyre, the avowed anarchist and teacher of music, who was yesterday afternoon fatally shot by Herman Helcher, who

chance of recovery. The shooting occurred on the street and was witnesses by a number of persons. Miss le Cleyre was awaiting a car wheft Helcher approached and began firing from a revolver. Three of the five bullets which he discharged took effect. Helcher was arrested and taken before the dying woman, but she declined to accuse him of having

shot her. Miss le Cleyre has attained notoriety through her anarchistic utterances and her intimacy with prominent anarchists of the country. Her writings are said to be known to anarchists all over the world. It is said she came to this city about fifteen years ago from Michigan. Her father is dead, but her mother lives somewhere in the west. Helcher is a cigarmaker and was born in Russia. For a time he lived in Boston, coming to this city eight years ago.

#### TROLLEY CAR RUN DOWN.

#### jured in Weehawken. NEW YORK, December 20.-Three women

were perhaps fatally injured and fiftyseven other passengers were bruised and badly shaken up in a trolley car accident in Weehawken at midnight. The other victims, mostly women, were cut and bruised, but not seriously injured. The three whose condition is today re-

ported critical are: Mrs. Lambert Schmidt, wife of a telephone manufacturer, internally injured and

shoulder dislocated. Mrs. H. L. Newkirk, internal injuries.
Mrs. A. Rohner, suffering from shock and
skull badly injured.

All were of Weehawken. The accident occurred at a point where the trolley company's tracks cross those of

When the trolley car reached the tracks the motorman stopped his car to allow a freight train to pass. The last three cars of the freight train broke loose some distance east of the crossing, and were not noticed by the train crew. After the cars passed by the motorman of the trolley car thought it was the last of the train and started to cross the tracks. When he got his car in the middle of the crossing the three freight cars which had broken loose from the train came rolling along, and before he could get his car over the crossing t was struck with terrific force by the freight cars.

#### ROUGH WEATHER AT SEA.

French Liner La Savoie Had a Stormy Passage.

NEW YORK, December 20.-The French line steamer La Savoie, from Havre, arrived today after very rough weather throughout the passage. Heavy westerly gales and very rough seas were encoun-tered, and the waves frequently swept over the vessel. At one time the steamer was obliged to change her course and head up to the wind, slowing the engines, to ride out the gale. The seas damaged the bridge and some of the port lights in the officers' rooms. One steerage passenger had his hand caught in a slamming iron door and several of his fingers were cut off.

#### Forger Commits Suicide.

LONDON, December 20 .- The three bank note forgers who were committed for trial December 10, pleaded guilty and were sentenced today, Philip Bernstein to twenty years, Solomon Barmash to fifteen years and William Barmash to ten years' imprisonment. After being removed to their cells Solomon Barmash shot and killed himself.

Steamship Arrivals.

At Plymouth-Kronprintz Wilhelm, from



SOUTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS MUST RESPECT OBLIGATIONS.

Heretofore Have Had No Regard for Payment of Debts-Comment of Senators.

Conferences among senators today developed what in some respects will be the most interesting phase of the Venezuelan question as developed by the recent action of England and Germany. The Spanish-American countries of Central and South America are to be taught a lesson, in a way it is expected they will not soon forget, that they are not to be protected from the payment of debts by relying upon a broad construction of the Monroe doctrine and calling upon the United States for assistance.

Senators who have carefully studied recent events in Venezuela and read the correspondence that has passed between the authorities of Venezuela and foreign governments whose citizens have made large loans or investments in Venezuela express the opinion that President Castro and other leaders in the Venezuelan government have ignored financial obligations they have felt sure of American protection

from European interference. It is said they have in some way come to believe that the Monroe doctrine would shelter them from the payment of debts and all liabilities resulting from them. It is understood that the course of England and Germany in reference to settling their fiscal aaffirs in Venezuela is clearly understood at the State Department, and that there will be no attempt to violate the Monroe doctrine. Senators who are in the confidence of the administration declare that before the present affair is over Venezuela will be taught a lesson that will prevent any repetition of her course in respect to her responsibility for loans.

#### This Course Necessary.

This course is regarded as absolutely necessary for the protection of the United States in the future from foreign complications in relation to South American republics. It is believed that were the United States to interfere in the Venezuelan matter at this time without the utmost care in declaring her attitude on such questions, there would be the greatest danger that throughout Central and South America governments would become indifferent to their financial obligations to European countries, and whenever any move is made of a heroic nature to force them to live up to their agreements they treat it with in-difference and merely call on the United

States for protection.

"It will do them good to have a licking in a matter of this kind, so they will be taught, once for all, that the Monroe doctrine doesn't mean repudiation," said a prominent senator to a Star reporter today. The situation is being carefully watched by senators to see that England and Germany do not step beyond the bounds neces sary to collect debts, and that they do not establish themselves in Venezuela in any way to exercise sovereignty. The line of demarkation between the rights of a creditor and a conquering nation is well understood, and an effort is being made to see that it is respected by England and Ger-

#### Pope Signs Appointments.

ROME, December 20. - The pope today signed the appointments of Bishop James E. Quigley of Buffalo, N. Y., as archbishop of Chicago, and Rev. J. F. Regis Canevin, rector of St. Paul's Cathedral of Pittsburg, Pa., as coadjutor bishop of Pittsburg.

Stranded German Warship Afloat. KORSOR, Denmark, December 20. - The German warship Wittelsbach, which went ashore near here December 16, was floated

#### TEACHING A LESSON HUMBERTS ARRESTED AT THE WHITE HOUSE THE PRESIDENT SLIPS OFF FOR

Family Connected With Big Fraud in Paris.

CAUGHT IN MADRID

POLICE RECOVER LITTLE OF THE PLUNDER.

Belief That Important Papers Were Thrown Away in the Lavatories.

MADRID, December 20 .- Madame Humbert, other members of the Humbert family and M. and Mme. D'Aurignac, the brother and sister-in-law of Madame Humbert, who became notorious in connection with the great safe frauds in Paris, have been arrested here. They have been in Madrid since May 9.

Later it became known that the police made a clean haul of the whole family, Madame Humbert, her husband, Eva Humbert and the three d'Aurignacs, Romain, Emile and Marie. The police suspected a house on the Calle Ferray. Some time yesterday Romain d'Aurignac was seen to enter the building; a search warrant was obtained and the house was surrounded. After some difficulty the police were admitted, and arrested the long-sought-for defaulters. The prisoners protested that they were the vicitms of infamous proceedings. They threatened to "get even" with certain persons in France, and said they had come to Madrid direct from Paris.

One Becomes Hysterical.

Mlle. Eva became hysterical, and Madher daughter in her arms, pleading with the police, "For the love of God, do not sep-

arate me from my daughter." The police made an inventory of the con tents of the apartments, and found a parcel of jewels valued at \$2,000, a couple of lottery tickets and about \$115 in cash. Seals were then attached to the house and the whole family were removed to jail and were placed at the disposition of the French ambassador.
The police suspect the Humberts of hav ing disposed of important papers in the lavatories while delaying the entry of the officers. The family tried to escape by the windows, but failed, as the house was cor-

Fraud Perpetrated in Paris. The interest of all Paris of May 9 was

centered on an empty safe at 65 Avenue De la Grand Arme. It was supposed to contain \$20,000,000 left by Robert Crawford, said to be "an American millionaire." This sum was alleged to be held in trust by Madame Theres Humbert, whe under Mr. Crawford's first will was constituted his sole legatee, and on the atrength of her title to the fictitious vast estate succeeded in borrowing over \$12,000,000 from bankers, in borrowing over \$12,000,000 from bankers, money lenders and others in France and Belgium. Eventually an investigation was started; the Humberts and others connected with them in the operations fied from Paris, and May 9, when the chief of the detective department of Paris, M. Cochefort, opened the safe it brought to light the greatest swindle of the century, for the safe was found to contain nothing but an old jewel box, some old papers and the official seals which had made the swindle possible, the "fortune" having, under the terms of a second will, been represented as being held in trust until Mile. D'Aurignac, Madame Humbert's niece, attained her majority, when all the heirs mentioned in the two wills were to come to an amicable agreement for an equitable division of the property.

UNION STATION

A DAY'S REST. Newspaper Men Have a Brief Scare

at His Sudden and Quiet Departure.

President Roosevelt handed over a twentyminute scarce to the corps of White House newspaper men this morning, and never did mental machinery-the Conan Doyle portion -work quicker and faster to unravel a temporary mystery, and never did the reward come quicker.

The reporters who went to their regular posts at the White House this morning found that the President and Secretary Cortelyou had gone, according to arrangement, to attend the funeral services of Mrs. Grant, but the expectation was that they would return in a short time and resume their regular work of receiving callers and disposing of the day's business. So the reporters took things easy. Senators and representatives and others walked in and walked away on finding that the President was out. There was nothing worth men tioning in this, and no attention was paid

to it. Along toward 11 o'clock Capt. Loeffler, the President's doorkeeper, walked in and took his post at the door leading to the Presi-dent's room. Several congressmen called, meandered in a thoroughly make-sure fash-ion up to Capt. Loeffler's little desk, greeted in formal fashion and then leaned over and said a few words to him. Instead of opening the door of the President's room and passing these statesmen into the innersanctum Capt. Loeffler made a brief state-ment and the congressmen wheeled about

Not in His Office. "The President isn't in his office," is what

they said as they went out. That wasn't at all alarming, or really worth thinking about, except that it is selame Humbert clasped Marie d'Aurignac and dom that the President is out of his office during the business hours of the day. "Guess he's gone up to the house for a few minutes," said some one.

Just a little mystery began to be added

to the situation, however, when other representatives called and received the same statement from Captain Loeffler.
"There must be something doing," casually remarked one of the reporters to another other.
"Where's the President?" a reporter ask-

ed of Captain Loeffler.
"I don't know. He told me that he would receive no visitors today, and so I'm not admitting anybody to his room. Secretary Cortelyou was with him, but the President has gone out of the office now." "Please ask Mr. Cortelyou to let me see was the request the reporter made

of Arthur Simmons, Mr. Cortelyou's doorceeper.
"I'm sorry, but Mr. Cortelyou told me not to bring him any cards," was Simmons

"Oh-ho," began to soliloquize several of the profession. "There is something up, sure." But to find out was the thing necessary. Finally Simmons was induced to go in and ask Mr. Cortelyou whether the President was going to New York. A nega-tive answer through Simmons was the reply. That was just a little reassuring, and suspicions were somewhat allayed when, a few minutes after this, Secretary Hay walked in and was admitted to the Presi-

dent's room.
"Oh, it's all right now," the reporters as-Just a few minutes later Secretary Hay was seen to be walking toward his department from the front part of the house, and it was evident he had gone to the residence portion of the White House to talk with the President.

Analytical Process at Work. By this time the Conan Doyle analytical process in newspaper heads was at work. This same apparatus was made to do business much faster when Thomas Lightrect. It was next noticed that Secret Service Detectives Taylor and Tyree were not around the White House. So they must be at the train. The reporters began to get busy. All inquiries in the President's offices failed to elicit satisfactory replies. All of the employes really appearance to know nothing. There was no ated to know nothing. There was no at-tempt to conceal something in the way they answered. At the White House proper it was learned that the President and Mrs. Roosevelt and all the children except little Quentin had gotten into carriages, accompanied by Secretary Cortelyou and Assistant Secretary Loeb, and driven away. Nobody knew where they had gone.
"I'm off," said one newspaper man, and he made for a passing car.
"So am I," said another.

rect. It was next noticed that Secret Ser-

Found at Railroad Station.

"I'll stay here while you fellows work the depots," said another, and the two men who had taken cars on Pennsylvania avenue were soon at the Pennsylvania railway station. There they found the party boarding a special train on the Southern railway. Secretary Cortelyou no longer made a secret of the matter.

He said the President and his family were going to Rapidan, Va., to spend today and Sunday with one of their old friends,

Joseph Wilmer, who has a large planta-tion near Rapidan. The President simply wanted a day or two of rest. With the President and Mrs. Roosevelt were Theodore, jr., Kermit, Ethel and Archie. Assistant Secretary Loeb went along with them, and Mr. Cortelyou returned to the No newspaper men went on the train

and none followed on other trains. It was the first trip the President had ever made that he had gotten well beyond the sight of the reporters. He is eighty miles from Washington and enjoying a respite from official duties.

The President expects to return to Wash-

ington on Monday morning. The strain upon him, both mentally and physically, since Congress convened and during the crisis in Venezuelan affairs has been very great, and he felt the necessity for some relief from those cares. The trip was made on a special train of two cars over the Southern railway.

Few people at the railroad station had any idea that the President was to leave the city, and, in consequence, the only peo-ple about the train when it pulled out were four or five newspaper men and some of the White House attaches. As the train moved from the station the President ap-peared on the rear platform of the last car and, in response to greetings from the little coterie of friends, raised his hat in fare-

## CANAL COMMISSION EXPENSES.

Resolution Calling on Secretary of State for Information.

Representative Hepburn, chairman of the House committee on interstate and foreign commerce, today introduced a resolution directing the Secretary of State to furnish the House with a statement of the expenses of the isthmian canal commission, of which Rear Admiral J. G. Walker was chairman. The resolution provides that the statement shall show all expenditures made by the commission or authorized to be paid, and particularly all allowances or payments for all personal service, including payments for board, rations, transportation, supplies, wages, salary and allowances of every kind and to whom paid; also all payments of every character made to the members of the isthmian commission or inuring to the benefit of any of them.

#### TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS. Secretary Root Will Ask Congress for

More Authority. Secretary Root intends to ask Congress to modify existing law so as to authorize the Secretary of War to contract for the transportation of troops and supplies for a longer period than one year in order that he may be enabled to make better terms for such service than is possible under the present system of annual contracts. The legislation is desired for the purpose of securing more advantageous rates for the service between the Pacific coast and the Philippines in case the department should decide to discontinue the government service and dispose of its transports either by sale or charter, to the highest bidder. As already announced, a contract has been made with the Boston Steamship Company for such shipments to the Philippines as the department may desire to make by way of ports

#### BLIZZARD IN THE ROCKIES.

Railroads in Wyoming and Colorado Blocked by Snow.

on Puget sound.

DENVER, Colo., December 20.-The blizzard which has been raging in Wyoming for twenty-four hours has reached northern and eastern Colorado, and all railways running into Denver are either blocked or badly delayed. The incoming Rock Island trains is stuck in the snow at Goodland, Kan., and the train which should have lef? here at 9:30 o'clock last night over that road was abandoned. The Union Pacific is blockaded between here and Cheyenne.
All the mountain roads are badly crippled.
Snow plows have been ordered to the scene
of blockades.

SANTA FE. N. M., December 20 .- Ten inches of snow has fallen in Taos and Mora counties. The snowfall was the heaviest since 1892.

### Personal Mention.

Mr. A. R. Shattuck of New York and Mr. William Burry of Chicago are at the Arlington. Mr. F. P. Smith of Chicago and Mr. Jas P. Scott of Hot Springs, Va., are at the New Willard.

Mr. D. B. Williams of Connellsville, Pa. and Mr. William F. Sheehan of New York are at the Raleigh. Mr. Jesse E. Potbury has left Washington for South Carolina and Georgia, where he will spend his Christmas holidays. During his stay in Georgia Mr. Potbury expects to speak at the Young Men's Christian Asso-clations at Atlanta, Macon and Augusta.

District Appropriation Hearings. The hearings on the District appropriation bill were adjourned yesterday to January 6 at 10 o'clock, when the school trus-

He will return to Washington shortly after the 1st of January.

tees and the members of the board of char-ities will be heard. A request has been made by a number of members of various citizens' associations to be heard on the matter of District finances, and January 7 may be set as the date for a hearing of this character.

#### Capitol Notes.

Representative Stephens of Texas has introduced a bill to open for settlement 505,000 acres of land in the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indian reservations in Oklahoma territory.

The House committee on commerce has reported the bili requiring safety appliances for coupling cars. Some slight amendments were recommended.

The Colville Reservation.

Representative Jones (Wash.) introduced bill in the House today to open to settlement the remaining portion of the Col-ville Indian reservation, in the state of Washington, containing about 1,500,000

When you get a "special figure" or "cut rate" on advertising space, it is safe to assume that some competitor in your business is getting still more favorable terms. The only safe rule is to deal where the same rate is charged to everybody for the same service.

#### were seen to get in a vehicle and drive DOING ALL THEY CAN away. These two men always accompany the President and Secretary Cortelyou, and here was corroboration that the sus-picions that had been aroused were cor-

Coal Operators Not Holding Back Product.

SUPPLY CUT IN HALF

STRIKE PREVENTED THE USUAL SUMMER SURPLUS.

The Situation Necessitates Patience and Self-Denial-Outlook Not

Very Encouraging.

Special From a Staff Correspondent. NEW YORK, December 2) .- The presidents of the anthracite coal companies have taken some steps to ascertain the disposition of the output of the coal mines. This inquiry was instituted for the purpose of satisfying themselves of the truth or falsity of reports that somebody was holding up the coal supply. This action was inspired by considerations of humanity, notwithstanding the prevailing idea that the

coal presidents are heartless and soulless

The idea that any individual firm or corporation could hold back the supply of coal in anticipation of possible severe weather and exorbitant prices later on was so abhorrent even the much-reviled trust magnates could hardly bring themselves to believe that any human being could be so overcome with cupidity as to perpetrate an outrage of that kind upon suffering humanity. However, in order to make sure, and take no chances on human nature, the railway presidents have looked into the situation thoroughly.

The following may be accepted as an authoritative, truthful statement:

No Hold-Up of Coal.

"There is no hold-up of the coal output in a general or to a material degree. It is not believed that there are many individual cases of withholding of supplies by local dealers. As to the latter, the people in each community can best judge for themselves; they can see the stocks in the dealers' yards or by a little inquiry ascertain the stocks on the railway sidings in the vicin-

"It is certain that there is no withholding of supplies by the operators, the railways or the agents who act as intermediaries between the producers and the retail deal-

"The following series of questions, which I propounded, and answers to them by the authority above referred to may interest the consumers of Washington: "Is the present output of coal at the mines up to the normal?"

"It is about 100,000 tons a day above the normal for this season of the year." "What becomes of the coal?" "It is hurried to the market and absorbed in small quantities so rapidly that its presence is hardly noted. It must be remembered that every family started with an membered that every family started with an empty coal cellar when winter fairly set in. Usually the heavy consumers of coal have a stock on hand. The work of the producers at this season of the year only keeps up the average consumption. Now the work of the producers must not only keep up the average consumption, but the average consumption is increased, because of the original deficit in the supply."

"The public has an idea," I suggested, that come one is keeping coal from the

"The public has an idea," I suggested, 
"that some one is keeping coal from the 
retail dealer: people coming in on the 
trains say that they pass miles of coal cars on the sldings. Capacity of a Mile of Cars.

"Do you know how many tons of coal there are in a mile of coal cars?" was the "There are just 4,350 tons in your mile of coal cars. Now it takes just ten miles of coal cars to supply New York for a day. The strings of coal cars observed on the

sidings approaching Washington were not

being held up by anybody or anything except physical conditions—the inability to handle, unload and deliver their contents. "The total output of coal for the past eleven months of 1902 was 23,101,459 tons. eleven months of 1302 was 23,101,453 tons. The output for the same period, 1301, was 49,445,148 tons. The difference, of course, comes about from the long period of idleness of the mines. I venture to say that 99½ per cent of the daily output is going into the hands of the consumer just as fast as steam can haul it, dumps can unload it and teams can deliver it on the sidewalk. and teams can deliver it on the sidewalk. The railroads cannot hold it back because they have not the cars to store it in, and, furthermore, because they are interested in getting the freights for its transportation.

"The middlemen are not holding it up, because they are afraid of a big slump in prices that would follow a warm spell in

January. I venture to say that the re-tailers are not holding it up, if for no other reason-taking the most cold-blooded view of it-than that the pressure from their customers will not permit such action.
"Our estimate of the present daily shipment of coal is as follows: To New York, Jersey City and Long Island, 45,000 tons; Philadelphia, 21,000 tons; Boston, 10,000 tons; New Jersey, 5,000 tons; New England, 13,750 tons; Buffalo, 5,000 tons; west-Jersey City and Long Island, 45,000

neous, including local, 75,000 tons. Total, 226,750 tons. "Now, to come to the consumers' standpoint, what is the prospect for the house-holder for the rest of this winter?" I asked.

ern states, 28,000 tons; southern states, 15,000 tons; Canada, 9,000 tons; miscella-

Prospects Unfavorable. "Exceedingly unfavorable," was the re-

"What can the householder do?" was the

next question of a practical nature. "I can only say he should be patient and above all not to exercise cupidity. In other words, he must be willing to bear his share of the common burden of self-denial and not insist upon filling his own coal cellar full. That will certainly result in his neighbor having none. The visible supply is almost cut in half. The very poor will suffer less in reality than the middle class. There will be always some one to look out for the destitute. It is your middle-class householder who will feel the pinch.

"You are not very comforting," was suggested

'The Star asked for the truth," respond-"The Star asked for the truth," responded he, "and there it is." iWth this condition confronting the public, the Standard Oil Company proceeds to pile further burdens on the people. The price of refined kerosene to jobbers was yesterday advanced one cent a gallón. Kerosene today is quoted at a higher figure than has prevailed at any

time within twenty years.

Down in Wall street today some men were figuring the results of that increase to the Standard Oil Company. The lowest estimate was that it would, if the ratio continued, increase the income of the Standard Oil Company \$15,500,000 a year. Last Monday the stockholders in the Standard Oil Company received their last quarterly dividend of 10 per cent. The dividends of the entire year were \$45,000,000.

TO COMMAND THE ARMY.

Gen. Chaffee Selected to Succeed Gen. Young.

It is officially admitted at the War Department that Gen. Chaffee will succeed Gen. Young, who has been selected to command the army on the retirement of Gen.